

REMARKS

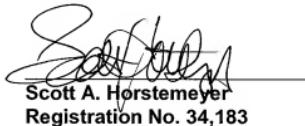
This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed January 8, 2007. The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Upon entry of this response, claims 41, 43, 45, 47, 48, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 59, and 61-64 are pending in the present application. The Examiner is thanked for indicating on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 45, 52, 59, and 62-64 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 41, 43, 48, and 55 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 45, 52, 59, and 62-64 have been amended to include the limitations of their corresponding base claims and any intervening claims. Dependent claim 47 has been amended to now depend from claim 45. Dependent claims 50 and 54 now depend from claim 52. Dependent claims 57 and 61 now depend from claim 59. Applicants respectfully submit that these amended dependent claims are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that these dependent claims contain all features of independent claims 45, 52, and 59. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is hereby courteously requested. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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